
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Michigan Community Dental Clinics Celebrates South Clinic
Expansion, New Oral Surgeon and National Children's Dental Health Month**

GRAND RAPIDS – Michigan Community Dental Clinic's South Clinic location is expanding, thanks to a donation from the Delta Dental Foundation. This morning, the Kent County Board of Commissioners approved accepting a donation of more than \$66,000 from the Delta Dental Foundation to purchase two more dental chairs. South Clinic also added another dentist to their team in January 2015. This expansion and adding an oral surgeon underscores the need for Medicaid dental services for many residents in Kent County.

Dr. Timothy Williams, D.D.S., Board Certified Oral Surgeon recently joined the dental staff at the Kent County – South Dental Clinic. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, as well as Wayne State University, School of Medicine Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was previously the founder and president of Kalamazoo Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery P.C... With over 30 years of experience in Oral Surgery, Dr. Williams looks forward to serving the residents of Kent County. Dr. Williams was born in Grand Rapids and is glad to be back in West Michigan. The Kent County –South Dental Clinic is dedicated to serving Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan and low-income uninsured individuals. Dr. Williams provides IV sedation for patients. This new service will utilize two dental chairs at the clinic.

Michigan Community Dental Clinics, Inc. (MCDC) partnered with the Kent County Health Department to provide dental services at the South Clinic in 2014. Medicaid insurance for dental services is accepted, and the clinic offers a plan to help the uninsured or underinsured. The clinic provides public health (WIC, Immunizations, and other KCHD services) as well as dental health needs all in the same location.

The timing for this added chairs comes as we recognize February as National Children's Dental Health Month. "Good oral health is critical for your children," says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. "Children need a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. Oral health can impact other aspects of health; tooth and mouth pain can negatively affect a child's ability to learn." Decay can appear as soon as teeth do, and nearly all tooth decay can be prevented. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends taking your child to the dentist within six months after his or her first tooth comes in, or by the age of one.

South Clinic is located at 4700 Kalamazoo Avenue SE in Kentwood. Those interested in services provided by Michigan Community Dental Clinics can call toll free 877-313-6232; those interested in KCHD services can call 616-632-7200.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.